

(1,367.5 miles) of railroad lines, 145 bridges, 12,516 kilometers (7,822.5 miles) of highways, and 1,293 highway bridges, according to the Communist report.

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Teng Tzu-hui explained the difficulty of the task. "Except for Honan and part of Hupeh which belonged to the old liberation area, the other four provinces, excluding Hainan Island, were liberated within six months, so the responsibility of taking-over was a heavy one."

The Communists first seized power in the urban districts, which contained the largest number of persons sympathetic to Communism, and then extended their influence to the rural districts. A great number of cadres of the Communist Party including 10,000 from North China, 8,000 from Northeast China, and 5,000 from Central China, were drafted and sent to this region to assist. Underground workers were also employed in Hunan, Kwangtung, and Kwangsi. In each province a "revolutionary university" was established to train educated men and women for the service of the Party. Approximately 200 to 300 men and women were enlisted in each country, and altogether a total of 200,000 inhabitants of Central-South China were trained for Party work. All existing governmental institutions were kept as they were, but employed personnel had to undergo the process of re-education in Communist doctrine. The old personnel under the pao-chia system (an organization established on the local level for the promotion of public safety) was left intact in order to avoid disturbances and to maintain a system of village defense. Shortly thereafter, the Communists organized peasants' associations, trade unions, and women's federations, thus encompassing all groups.

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2. Ibid., p. 625.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid., p. 626.

II. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

On March 10, 1950, Lin Piao, chairman of the Military and Political Committee of the Central-South Region, made another report to the administration of the Central People's Government "In the Central-South Area a fundamental change is going on. The center of activity has now been shifted from the military to the economic aspect and to the preparatory work for land reform. This change has arisen out of the speedy victory of the Liberation War."

Lin announced that within six months the Kuomintang's regular army of 600,000 men and a militia of 500,000 men had been totally destroyed. Following this "historic conquest," he continued, the "orderly assumption of control" of the cities and the extension of the Communist regime to the rural areas had begun. Trade and industry were beginning to revive. The masses of workers had been duly assigned to factories and other productive enterprises. Meanwhile, a movement for the suppression of local despots and for rent reduction had been established. Within the four provinces of Honan, Hupeh, Kiangsi, and Hunan, 230,000 "bandits" were captured and 150,000 scattered enemy soldiers were brought together and reorganized to serve in the Communist military forces. Lin concluded: "Governments in the rural areas also went through a process of transformation. This is the beginning of favorable conditions for us."

The following tasks were ordered for the Central-South region: (1) elimination of the enemy and the strengthening

5. Lin Pao, "Chung-nan-ch'u I-chiu-wu-ling-nien Ti Kung-tso Jen-wu," [The 1950 Mission for Central-South China], Ibid., p. 608.

6. Ibid., p. 609.

of the forces for national defense; (2) production and reconstruction; (3) preparations for land reform; (4) financial reform and reinforcement of the economy; (5) establishment of representative bodies for the consolidation of the people's political power; and (6) establishment of cultural and educational programs and the training of cadre members. 727 •

The people of the Central-South Region and the cadres which had been recruited were ordered to mobilize as if for war in order to speed reconstruction. Under the first point given above, emphasis was placed upon the strengthening of the army to increase its efficiency. Under the second point, emphasis was placed on the rehabilitation of light industries, although this program necessitated reforms in currency, communications, and commerce. 7 No less important were the projects involving agriculture and irrigation.

The initial economic policies in the Central-South China Region seemed moderate if we judge from the measured ordered. Labor-management were to be conducted through collective bargaining and arbitration; business-accounting methods were to be used and waste was eliminated. Finally, technical experts were to be employed, with the aim of mass production of goods of high quality at low cost.

In the field of agriculture, during the period of transition before the Land Reform Movement began, "landlords" and rich peasants were to be allowed to continue to collect rents from their tenants, although the rents were to be reduced by 25 per cent. "Landlords" were to grant loans to their tenants. "Landlords" would not be allowed to divide their property or sell 727
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7. Ibid., pp. 609-11.

any part of it, and they would be subject to fine or imprisonment if they killed their cattle or destroyed horses. When transfer of land took place, all crops harvested were to go to those who had sown the seeds. These proposals seem moderate, and very probably they were meant to be so when they were initiated by Lin Piao, who knew that there was certain to be considerable resistance to the policy of land confiscation. However, the transition period before land reform was to be short. Lin Piao proposed that land reform in the provinces of Hunan, Kiangsi, and Kwangtung should be completed in 1951. Several other temporary measures instituted during the transition period are worth mentioning. Industrial and commercial enterprises belonging to "landlords" were in no way to be curtailed. After the estates of the "landlords" had been confiscated, they were to be given exactly the same amount of land as that given the poor peasants. And, rather surprisingly, unnecessary violence was not to be used against the "landlords" if they resisted the confiscation of property.⁸

III: ABOLITION OF THE MILITARY AND AND POLITICAL COMMITTEE

In the year 1952, a resolution changing the status and the name of the regional Military and Political Committee was passed by the Peking Government. The military governor of the region had assumed too much authority in the administration of government affairs. After the Committee had been abolished, the provincial govern-

8. Ibid., pp. 611-13.